

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

An engine control strategy for a marine propulsion system selects a desired idle speed for use during a shift event based on boat speed and engine temperature.

- 5 In order to change the engine operating speed to the desired idle speed during the shift event, ignition timing is altered and the status of an idle air control valve is changed. These changes to the ignition timing and the idle air control valve are made in order to achieve the desired engine idle speed during the shift event. The idle speed during the shift event is selected so that the impact shock and resulting
- 10 noise of the shift event can be decreased without causing the engine to stall.